



Virginia Commission for the Arts  
Commission Board Meeting  
Maymont  
Richmond, Virginia  
*June 15 and June 16, 2022*

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## **I. Attendees Wednesday, June 15, 2022**

Commissioners: Asa Jackson, Dr. Dena Jennings, Terry Emory Buntrock, Frazier Millner Armstrong, Robert Goudie, Michael Markley, Jan P. Monroe, Barbara Parker, Amanda Pillion, and David Trinkle, M.D.

Staff: Janet Starke, Cathy Welborn, and Casey Polczynski

Not in Attendance: LaTasha Do'zia, Sushmita Mazumdar, and Laurie Naismith

Special Guests: Secretary of Education, Aimee Guidera, Margaret Hancock, Incoming VCA Executive Director and Ed Harvey, President Virginians for the Arts

## **II. Call to Order**

Chair Asa Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m. with a land acknowledgement.

## **III. Approval of Minutes from December 9 – 10, 2021**

Motion to approve: Robert Goudie

Second: Mike Markley

All approved, motion passed

## **IV. Discussion/Approval of FY23 Grant Programs**

### **A. Creative Communities Partnership Grants (CCPG)**

**Discussion:** Dena Jennings asked about recognition and Janet Starke reiterated that the award letters given to grantees informs them of the responsibility of including the VCA logo in all their publications. Jennings responded that the VCA should do more to ensure that subgrantees acknowledge funding from the Commission.

Motion to approve: David Trinkle

Seconded: Mike Markley

All approved, motion passed

Recusal from specific locality votes:

- Asa Jackson, Newport News
- Jan Monroe, Fredericksburg
- Amanda Pillion, Abingdon
- Robert Goudie, Fairfax County
- Dena Jennings, Town of Orange and Town of Floyd
- Terry Buntrock, City of Williamsburg and James City County
- Frazier Millner Armstrong, Chesterfield County and City of Richmond

## B. General Operating Support (GOS) Short-Form

Motion to approve: Mike Markley

Seconded: Jan Monroe

All approved, motion passed

Recusals:

- Robert Goudie, ARTSFAIRFAX and Public Art Reston
- Frazier Millner Armstrong, CultureWorks

## C. General Operating Support (GOS) Area I

**Discussion:** Amanda Pillion provided a panel overview supporting that the panel was diverse and well organized.

Motion to approve: Barbara Parker

Seconded: Amanda Pillion

All approved, motion passed

## D. General Operating Support (GOS) Area 2

**Discussion:** Barbara Parker provided a panel overview stating that it was difficult getting enough panelists as two withdrew at the last minute. Parker stated that the panel was diverse and prepared.

1. Lynchburg Art Club and Galleries was a new applicant and considered too insular, as community outreach is nonexistent. The panelists recommended no funding.
2. Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History is primarily a history museum with focus on the Civil War. Parker shared that the organization is doing some programming off-site and that she is uncomfortable with the Commission funding a history museum. The organization does not meet the full eligibility of a GOS grantee and the panel supported that the museum seek funding in other VCA grant programs.
3. The panel recommended no funding for VCCA as they felt that the organization's programming does not provide community outreach. Frazier Millner Armstrong stated that the benefit to fellows in attending the VCCA is highly regarded through the U.S. The VCCA is unique in that the mission does not focus on community engagement.

Motion to approve with staff recommendations: Mike Markley

Seconded, David Trinkle

All approved, motion passed

#### E. General Operating Support (GOS) Area 3

**Discussion:** David Trinkle provided a panel overview supporting that the panel was prepared with diverse perspectives and skill sets. The detailed conversation included a solid review of financials and IDEA implementation. Trinkle highlighted the panel's conversation of Mish Moves and Rockbridge Ballet and agreed with their assessment. Additionally, Trinkle agreed with the staff's priority one recommendation for the Arts Council of the Valley. Mike Markley asked about Lyric Council and their priority three rating with Trinkle supporting the panel conversation that the film programming of this organization is primarily commercial and a significant panel concern.

Motion to approve with staff recommendations: David Trinkle  
Seconded: Barbara Parker  
All approved, motion passed

#### F. General Operating Support (GOS) Area 4A

**Discussion:** In the absence of a Commissioner in attendance, Janet Starke provided an overview. The panel was prepared and diverse perspectives, especially pertaining to IDEA. Starke explained that the VCA shifted five-4A organization for review in Area 4B given the large number of grant application in this area. Starke explained that staff recommended a priority level increase for Local Motion Project.

Motion to approve with staff recommendations: Mike Markley  
Seconded: Dena Jennings  
All approved, motion passed  
Recusal:

- Robert Goudie, Tephra Institute of Contemporary Arts

#### G. General Operating Support (GOS) Area 4B

**Discussion:** Dena Jennings stated the panel was prepared with diverse and varied expertise. Jennings stated that the priority rating for the Arts Center in Orange was correct. Mike Markley shared concerns regarding staff salaries and programming related to the Armed Services Arts Partnership.

Motion to approve: Jan Monroe  
Seconded: Barbara Parker  
All approved, motion passed  
Recusals:

- Mike Markley, Fauquier Community Theatre
- Dena Jennings, Arts Center in Orange

#### H. General Operating Support (GOS) Area 5

**Discussion:** Frazier Millner Armstrong provided an overview complementing the panelists for their expertise and quality of their reviews. It was clear that many organizations have ongoing leadership. The panel conversations focused on IDEA and community outreach.

Motion to approve: Frazier Millner Armstrong  
Seconded: Barbara Parker  
All approved, motion passed  
Recusal:

- Dena Jennings, The Front Porch

## I. General Operating Support (GOS) Area 6

**Discussion:** In the absence of a Commissioner in attendance, Starke provided an overview of the panel stating that the panel was insightful and prepared. Mike Markley stated Virginia Children's Chorus did not provide an updated strategic plan and made a motion to move this organization to a priority two. Starke responded that this organization has been closed for the past two years and that a new director has been identified and starting July 1, 2022 and recommended they remain a priority one.

**Discussion/Virginia Children's Chorus:** Asa Jackson suggested that there are too many gaps with this organization.

Motion to move Virginia Children's Chorus to priority two: Mike Markley  
Seconded: Dena Jennings  
All approved, Robert Goudie abstained

Motion to approve with recommendations including Commission board motion to move Virginia Children's Chorus to a priority two: Barbara Parker  
Seconded: David Trinkle  
All approved, motion passed  
Recusal:

- Asa Jackson, Newport New Public Art Foundation

## J. General Operating Support (GOS) Major Arts Organizations

**Discussion:** Terry Buntrock stated that the panel was highly prepared with varied expertise.

1. Wolf Trap Foundation for Performing Arts is a successful organization with extensive support and capacity. Buntrock shared the panel's concerns regarding this organizations need for VCA support given that the organization already receives funding from the Commonwealth. Janet Starke provided an overview of the VCA's history in funding this organization. Starke explained that the state appropriations received by Wolf Trap is in support of their early learning initiatives clarifying that VCA funding is directed towards general operating support.
2. American Shakespeare is going through significant leadership transitions. This organization has been in communication with the VCA as Amy Wratchford is returning to assist the organization with their financials.

Motion to approve: Terry Buntrock  
Seconded: Mike Markley  
All approved, motion passed

## K. Project Grants

**Discussion:** Janet Starke provided an overview stating that the panelist were prepared and savvy. Two different panels reviewed project grants with one panel focusing on music and dance and the other panel incorporating all of the other disciplines.

1. The panel recommended no funding for WHRO and Asa Jackson questioned this recommendation. Janet Starke commented that the application was for a project that had received subsequent funding.
2. The panel recommended no funding for the VA War Memorial and the Mighty Pen Project. The VCA has received in several different iterations of prior requests for this program. This application did not demonstrate a need for financial support.
3. Virginia Center for the Literary Arts requested funding for a virtual conference. The applicant raised many concerns and did not clearly support the request.

Motion to approve: Frazier Millner Armstrong

Seconded: Jan Monroe

All approved, motion passed

## L. Artists in Education (AIE)

**Discussion:** Jan Monroe attending the panel discussion on day one and Terry Buntrock attending the meeting on day two. Buntrock recommended not splitting Commissioners over a two-day panel meeting stating that is best for Commissioners to attend both days to understand the full scope of the conversation and panel recommendations. Jan Monroe stated that the panel was prepared and intentional and focused on the organizational aspects and education curriculum components.

1. The panel recommended no funding for The Origin Project as the budget primarily reflected program costs associated with transportation, meals and hotels with little or no support requested for programmatic content.
2. Barbara Parker inquired about the no funding recommendation for Woflbane. Casey Polczynski responded that the organization reached out for feedback and support; however, the application did not clearly articulate a clear plan to implement the programming.

Motion to approve with staff recommendations: Dena Jennings

Seconded: Terry Buntrock

All approved, motion passed

## M. Teaching Artist Roster

**Discussion:** Jan Monroe provided an overview of the two applications reviewed. Asa Jackson voiced a cultural bias concern regarding the applicant Shark City Drum.

1. The panel was a split vote to approve Shark City Drum for the VCA Teaching Artist Roster. VCA staff did not recommend roster approval for Shark City Drum. Asa Jackson commented that stepping should not be comparable to athletics as there is a long tradition of stepping involving movement artistry. The panel had larger concerns with the organization's structure, more so than the educational merits.

Motion to approve with staff recommendations: Jan Monroe  
Seconded: Mike Markley  
All approved, motion passed

## **V. Special Recognition**

**Discussion:** Blue Ridge Institute and Museum as part of Ferrum College works as a unique entity in the preservation of Blue Ridge and Appalachian Arts. The VCA is recommending that the Institute apply for \$4,500 to support their general operating support.

Motion to approve: David Trinkle  
Seconded: Frazier Millner Armstrong  
All approved, motion passed

## **VI. 2022 – 2023 Commission Budget**

**Discussion:** Mike Markley gave a brief overview of the proposed 2022 – 2023 budget. Janet Starke provided a line-by-line description of revenues and expenditures.

Motion to approve: Mike Markley  
Seconded: David Trinkle  
All approved, motion passed

**Meeting Adjourned:** Asa Jackson adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.



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June 16, 2022

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## **I. Attendees Thursday, June 16, 2022**

Commissioners: Asa Jackson, Dr. Dena Jennings, Terry Emory Buntrock, Frazier Millner Armstrong, Robert Goudie, Michael Markley, Jan P. Monroe, Barbara Parker, Amanda Pillion, and David Trinkle, M.D.

Staff: Janet Starke, Cathy Welborn, and Casey Polczynski

Not in Attendance: LaTasha Do'zia, Sushmita Mazumdar, and Laurie Naismith

Special Guests: Ed Harvey, President Virginians for the Arts

## **II. Meeting Convened**

Chair Asa Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. with a land acknowledgement.

## **III. Strategic Plan Overview**

Janet Starke reviewed the strategic plan dashboard to highlight progress achieved over the past year.

## **IV. Nominating Committee Report**

Jan Monroe provided a slate of proposed officers for FY23 and included:

- Dena Jennings, Chair
- Robert Goudie, Vice Chair
- Amanda Pillion, Secretary

**Discussion:** Asa Jackson proposed the following slate of officers recognizing the VCA's change in leadership with incoming Executive Director, Margaret Hancock. Committee chairs would remain in place for the 2022 – 2023.

Motion to approve: Mike Markley

Seconded: Jan Monroe

All approved, motion passed

## **V. Special Recognition**

The Commission board recognized Janet Starke for her years of service and dedication to the VCA as the agency's head. Additionally, Starke recognized Commission Chair, Asa Jackson for his leadership in guiding the board.

## **VI. Old Business/New Business**

None

## **VII. Public Comment**

None

**Meeting Adjourned:** Asa Jackson adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.